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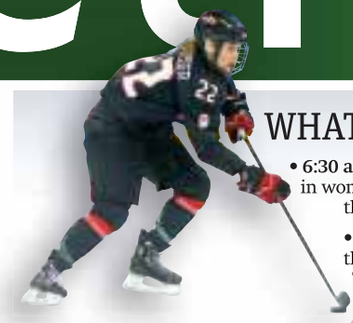
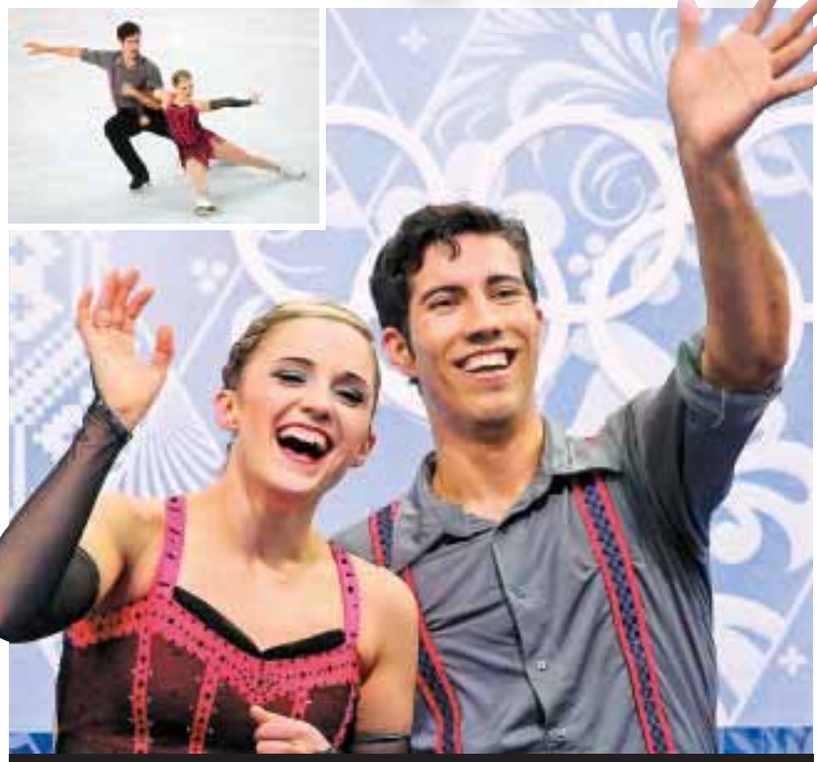


WHAT TO WATCH IN SOCHI

- **6:30 a.m.** Canada meets the U.S. to wrap up round-robin play in women's hockey. A matchup usually reserved for the finals this time decides the winner of group A.
- **9:45 a.m.** Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford will go for their second medal of the Games in the pairs free skate. They're in fifth after the short program, just three points back of a podium spot. **GREG DOWNS/FOR METRO**



WITH LOVE FROM RUSSIA

Paige Lawrence and partner Rudi Swiegers, of Kipling, Sask., and Kennedy, Sask., respectively, are pleased with their performance after competing, inset, on Tuesday in the figure-skating pairs short program at Iceberg Skating Palace in Sochi, Russia. More Olympics coverage, pages 4, 6, 8 & 14-16.

PAUL GILHAM/GETTY IMAGES; INSET: BERNAT ARMANGUE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Feds' budget fails to impress in Sask.

'We expected greater clarity.' Provincial, municipal leaders give spending plan lukewarm reception

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
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The new federal budget was met on Tuesday with a lukewarm reception from provincial and municipal leaders, who charged that the "boring" spending plan offers no substantive measures for cutting into Saskatchewan's growing infrastructure deficit.

Provincial Finance Minister Ken Krawetz said the federal government's mostly predictable budget fails to shed light on how funding would be distributed through its 10-year, $53-billion Building Canada infrastructure program.

"We expected greater clarity (on) the Building Canada Fund," Krawetz told reporters in Regina.

"Municipalities and the province were wanting to see a greater explanation on what was announced last year. That's not there."

Based on Ministry of Finance estimates, Krawetz said Saskatchewan could expect to receive only $15 million in the first year of the program.

He noted, though, that the allocation would increase in future years.

Saskatchewan's opposition New Democrats also voiced displeasure at the 2014 blueprint, accusing Ottawa of failing to grasp the steep, growth-fuelled challenges facing the province.

"We were really looking for an investment in our communities.… It's simply not there," said NDP finance critic Trent Wotherspoon, citing a lack of firm commitments to bolster infrastructure funding.

For the mayors of Saskatchewan's biggest cities, the budget offers more questions than answers.

"We need to know what the criteria is," Don Atchison, mayor of Saskatoon, said of the Building Canada program.

"There's no point going out there saying, 'We're going to build from A to Z' and then find out that A to Z aren't on the schedule."

In Regina, Mayor Michael Fougere said the budget is "vague" on the infrastructure and housing fronts — the two issues he has pinpointed as the capital city's top concerns.

Krawetz also took aim at the Harper government's contentious pledge to move ahead with the implementation of its Canada Job Grant program in April, even without support from the provinces and territories.

"We have had concerns about it," he said of the proposed grant scheme, in which costs will be split equally between Ottawa, employers and the provincial and territorial governments.

"The 10 provinces have agreed to submit a counter-proposal to the federal government.… They're waiting for a response from (Employment Minister) Jason Kenney."

WITH FILES FROM MORGAN MODJESKI IN SASKATOON

More on the federal budget, page 5.

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SGI seeks big rate hike

Average 5.2 per cent.
Highest increase in more than 15 years a 'concern,' observers say

SARAH TAGUIAM
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Drivers in Saskatchewan may face an average 5.2 per cent hike on their vehicle insurance rates, beginning this summer.

Saskatchewan Government Insurance is seeking an increase that would be the largest for the provincial Crown corporation in more than 15 years.

"It's the biggest one we've had since 1998 ... when we increased rates to a total of nine per cent," Don Thompson, SGI vice-president of product management, told media Tuesday.

If approved by Saskatchewan's Rate Review Panel, 84 per cent of vehicles will see an annual $49 increase — $4 per month — on insurance rates, while 16 per cent will experience a decrease or no change.

Rates would be adjusted depending on the type of vehicle.

The changes would take effect on Aug. 31.

According to SGI president and CEO Andrew Cartmell, the request is based on a growing number of claims and rising vehicle body repair labour costs. Those labour costs jumped, he said, by 10 per cent last month and will continue to climb by 10 per cent in each of the next two years.

Necessary evil?

"I don't think anyone wants to see a rate increase, but we hope we struck a good balance."
SGI president and CEO Andrew Cartmell

Under SGI's plan, motorcycle rates would climb by a fixed 5.2 per cent, while taxis would see their rates surge by 17.3 per cent.

Cartmell explained that the taxi and motorcycle hikes are aimed at bringing their rates closer to what's needed to cover claims and expenses and to protect customers from unexpected events such as extreme weather.

The Canadian Automobile Association acknowledged that the increase is a "concern."

"Prices are going up and so are labour costs, but we just have to wait and see what happens," said CAA Saskatchewan spokeswoman Christine Niemczyk.

SGI's proposed rate increase was announced at its head office by product management vice-president Don Thompson, left, president Andrew Cartmell, centre, and chief financial officer Jeff Stepan. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

Licence requirements

Province approves new measures to keep bikers safe

The Saskatchewan government has given the green light to recommendations aimed at improving motorcycle safety.

Saskatchewan Government Insurance says the province has approved all proposed changes put forward last week by a motorcycle review committee.

Changes that will kick in this coming season include making new riders prove they can safely handle motorcycles before they get their licences.

In addition, people who want motorcycle learner's permits must first hold a Class 5 driver's licence, the standard licence for operating a vehicle.

Other changes will come in 2015 or later, including a requirement that all motorcycle riders and passengers wear eye protection.

There will also be stiffer penalties for all drivers and riders who make unsafe lane changes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Community opposed

Metals plant gets environmental OK

The Saskatchewan government says a proposed metals processing plant has passed an environmental review.

It says the plan by Fortune Minerals Ltd. adheres to strict environmental standards.

The company wants to build the plant near Langham, northeast of Saskatoon.

Some nearby residents formed a group to oppose the project, saying it poses a risk to their water supply.

The Saskatchewan Environmental Society also recommended the province not approve the project.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saskatchewan residents sound off on Team Canada's start

With Canada seeing a strong start to the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games, Metro spoke to residents in Saskatoon and Regina to find out if they feel Team Canada can outdo their exceptional performance at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics when Canadian athletes took home 26 medals.

SARAH TAGUIAM AND MORGAN MODJESKI, METRO NEWS

Jeffrey Stewart, 21, student, Saskatoon

"I think they definitely could. They're off to a lot better start already and they've had people they weren't really expecting to medal doing good … so I think they definitely could."

Senecca Reyes, 17, student, Regina

"I think we're going to do really well but get around the same amount of medals. It's exciting to watch and see how it goes though since we were leading with medals early on."

Andrew Henry, 21, student, Saskatoon

"I think so … we've been working hard to outdo what we did in Vancouver, so I believe that we can outdo our performance."

Rob Phillipson, 24, masters student, Regina

"I'm guessing we're going to do pretty similar but maybe with a couple fewer medals. We had home court advantage in Vancouver and we might suffer some of the consequences in Russia."

Taylor Reiley, 19, student, Saskatoon

"There are a few more events this year that Canada is quite good at in the X Games ... there's still another week or more to go in the Olympics and they already have nine medals … so I think they probably could achieve a new record."

Raymond Mike, 47, unemployed, Regina

"I really think we'll do better this year. Last night we were already getting a few gold medals and there's still a week to go."

Students learn from city's Olympic speedskater

Sacred Heart Community School teacher Shelley Scheibel's Grade 1 class cheers for its Olympic athlete mentor Lucas Makowsky, who is representing Canada in the speed skating team pursuit event. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

The Olympic Winter Games are in full swing in Russia, and students all over Regina are joining in the fun.

Some of the youngsters who have had a front-row seat for the action are in teacher Shelley Scheibel's Grade 1 class at Sacred Heart Community School.

The class has partnered with born-and-raised Regina speedskater and Olympic gold medallist Lucas Makowsky since this past fall.

Through the program Classroom Champions, which connects top Canadian Olympic and Paralympic athletes with students in high-need schools, Makowsky has sent the pupils videos every month, teaching them about things such as perseverance, fair play and setting goals.

"Every student in my class knows Lucas ... and has learned a lesson from him during his journey toward the Olympics," said Scheibel, whose class is one of 18 in Canada in the Classroom Champions initiative.

The 26-year-old Reginan will compete for Canada in the speedskating team pursuit event in Sochi on Feb. 21. During his first few days at Sochi's Olympic Village, he spoke to them via Skype.

"Sometimes when we're outside running, I just want to quit," Ciarra Lafontaine, 6, said of the inspiration gained from Makowsky.

"But I think about Lucas and I encourage myself to not stop."

Noah Wernikowski, spokesman for the Regina Catholic School Division, said "a lot of other classes and schools are doing Olympic-related activities."

Scheibel pointed out that using the Olympics as a reference fits into the education curriculum and "does wonders for our sense of Canadian pride." SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

For charity

New quartet delivers singing Valentines

Come Feb. 14, Lynn Lowes and his quartet will hit the road and deliver romance to doorsteps.

Lowes and his group, Living Skies Chorus, have been a fixture in Regina's Valentine's Day celebrations for 14 years.

The quartet travels the city delivering "singing Valentines" to unsuspecting Reginans by serenading them with two songs and presenting them with a rose, a box of chocolates and a personalized card.

Due to the group's immense success in past years, however, Lowes' quartet will be joined this Valentine's Day by another foursome.

"It's always heartwarming to be able to use our talents to make others happy on this day," Lowes said.

"We thought that this year, we could have more people to spread the love to more people."

Gord Moker, a member of the new quartet A Capella Attitude, is looking forward to his first delivery.

"Music tends to get people to relive great memories, and I think it's great that we have the opportunity to do that for people," said Moker, who plans to take Friday off work to sing.

A singing Valentine costs $45, but $55 for a specific time of the day. To order, call (306) 584-8468 by Wednesday night. Some of the proceeds go to the Early Learning Centre.

SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

Quartet members, left to right, Gord Moker, Lynn Lowes, Tom Balkwill and Bill Coulthard deliver a singing Valentine to a staffer at Metro Regina's office. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

The budget: Six things to know

Along with freezing operating budgets and vowing a surplus by next year, Tuesday's federal budget delivered a grab bag of initiatives. Here's six you should know about.

GEOFF MATTHEWS AND TREVOR GREENWAY
Metro in Ottawa

The Canada Job Grant

Canadian businesses looking to hire and train underemployed or unemployed workers will get a hand from the top, as the 2014 federal budget will launch the Canada Job Grant, giving businesses up to $15,000 per worker for training costs.

First Nations education reform

The federal government will inject $1.9 billion over the next five years to reform the on-reserve education system to give First Nations communities education "comparable to provincial and territorial school systems."

Ending 'price discrimination'

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says he is going after companies that charge higher prices for goods sold in Canada than they do in the U.S. "The Government intends to introduce legislation to address price discrimination that is not justified by higher operating costs in Canada," said the budget tabled by the minister.

Where there's smoke, there's additional taxes

Smokers will pay 50 cents more a pack, effective immediately, as the government moves to reduce tobacco consumption. The move is expected to generate an additional $96 million for the federal treasury in the current fiscal year. The federal excise tax will rise from $17 to $21.03 a carton.

Beefing up our food-safety system

Government will inject $390 million over the next five years into Canada's food safety system. The cash will go into hiring inspectors and to create a country-wide information system for authorities to respond quickly to food-safety risks.

Canada online: Aiming for near universal access

The government says high-speed broadband networks should be available to virtually all Canadians within five years. In his budget, Flaherty said access to reliable networks is part of everyday life for Canadians, and promised $305 million over the next five years, to provide service to 280,000 more households.

Study: Lululemon pushing 'deeply unfair' philosophy

Making customers feel bad about their lives may be the secret to Lululemon's success at squeezing thousands into stretchy pants, argues research from an Ontario university.

The Canadian yoga retailer's manifesto, emblazoned on its bags with messages like "stress is related to 99 per cent of illness" and "this is not your practice life," helps sell athletic wear by promoting a philosophy that blames people if their lives aren't fabulous, according to the paper published in the Canadian Review of Sociology in January.

The political philosophy emphasizes individuals and personal responsibility, said co-author Christine Lavrence, professor at King's University College. While that might not seem bad, it can be "deeply unfair" by blaming people for things they're not in control of — say, a person with an illness or a single mother that sacrifices career advancement to care for her children, Lavrence said.

Lavrence and co-author Prof. Kristin Lozanski questioned how the "hugely successful piece of Canadian pop culture" managed to resonate so deeply with consumers.

People walk inside a Lululemon store in Miami. Researchers suggest the retailer is pushing a "deeply unfair" political philosophy. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

After studying retail locations across the country and analyzing the corporation's mission statement, the professors found Lululemon actively pushes a philosophy in a unique way.

"They make nice yoga clothes, they've got nice bags, but they're promoting a very specific political ideology," Lozanski said.

The researchers were critical of the message that mediocrity leads to a "lousy life," as it puts even more pressure on people in a success-obsessed society. Lozanski hopes the research will encourage people to rethink individualism and the way society makes individuals feel fully responsible for success and failure.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO IN VANCOUVER

FREE
Health Expo
Love Your Life, Change Your Lifestyle!
Computerized Health Age Appraisal
Lung Test Using Peak Flow Meters
Blood Pressure Testing
Fresh Raw Juice Samples
Take Home Disease Prevention Literature
Wednesday February 12th 6:00 -9:00 pm
Thursday February 13th 6:00 -9:00 pm
Sunday February 16th 12:00 -5:00 pm
Venue: Northgate mall (beside Safeway)
And much more... All Services Free!
Seventh-day Adventist Church

Canada's ski jumpers join in historic Olympic debut

Kim and Steve Henrich just wanted their daughter to take off clean and land in style. All the rest didn't matter so much.

After all, Calgary's Taylor Henrich had already helped make history at the Sochi Games just by being invited to compete.

Henrich, 18, was among an international field of 30 female ski-jumpers taking part in the Olympic debut of their sport Tuesday, one that came after years of controversy. In 2009, The Supreme Court of Canada denied an appeal to have the ladies compete in the 2010 Vancouver spectacle.

Kim and Steve weren't able to make it to Sochi to take in their daughter's moment to shine on the world stage, so they organized a viewing party at the Calgary Winter Club. The nerves were high at first: Kim admitted she struggled to watch as Taylor rocketed down the 90-metre take-off ramp.

In the end, she wound up 13th, just one spot behind fellow Calgary jumper Atsuko Tanaka, the only other Canadian competing in the event.

Kim and Steve Henrich held a party for their daughter Taylor, taking part in the first Olympic women's ski-jumping event. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO IN CALGARY

"Taylor is really phenomenal," Kim said after the excitement slowed. "She's not a kid anymore ... she always put her best effort into anything she does. I'm really proud of her."

In all likelihood, the women's event will stay on the Olympic program into the 2018 Games.

Tanaka, meanwhile, told reporters in Sochi that the mood was light among the competitors, despite the stakes being high.

"I was just really having fun up there with all the girls. We were high-fiving each other, wishing each other good luck," she said. "It was a great atmosphere to be jumping in." JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO IN CALGARY, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

RUSSIA'S ANTI-GAY STANCE HAS SPOILED THE SOCHI OLYMPICS

ANGELA MULLINS
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Too close to home

The atmosphere in Sochi has left me angry and, quite frankly, hurt.... I have no option but to sit these Games out.

It's Sochi day six and I haven't watched a minute.

I know it's hard to believe, but I've missed all the action by choice. The Olympics are, after all, one thing that most everyone in the world can agree to love.

Generally speaking, I love them too.

I marvel at the athletes' iron will. After the 2008 Summer Games I took faster, higher, stronger to a personal level, starting a workout regiment that has changed and likely saved my life.

One of my first vivid memories is of American gymnast Mary Lou Retton claiming five gold medals at the 1984 Games. I remember her face, grinning from ear to ear, on the front of my cereal box, her perkiness and national pride practically oozing off the cardboard.

I wanted to know her, to live part of her story. More importantly, I wanted to be her.

But this year will bring no such motivation or inspiration. The atmosphere in Sochi has left me angry and, quite frankly, hurt.

I don't feel part of these Games. In fact, I feel quite the opposite: asked by the host to either bow out or keep quiet.

See, my problem is with all this "anti-gay stuff," as a prominent member of the International Olympic Committee put it so eloquently recently.

As millions openly bask in the glow of Russia's shiny new stadiums, many nearby are being forced to live anything but an open life.

I used to be one of those people, and the memories, though more than a decade old, are still too raw for me to face.

Trust me, I did anything but run out of my closet waiving a rainbow flag. I grew up in a conservative family in small-town America, where it was barely acceptable to be black in the '90s, much less gay.

When I eventually told my parents I was dating a woman, now my wife, the rejection was immediate.

It hurts to be told that something as basic as who you love is wrong, much less that you could be jailed as a result. It's a pain that dulls over time, but it never goes away no matter how much you laugh or how much you cry.

For me, the Sochi Games are and always will be automatically linked to Russia's attack on human rights. Even watching from afar scratches too many old personal wounds and comes closer than I dare to supporting something so innately wrong.

So, that's it. I have no option but to sit these Games out.

The politics have simply hit too close to home this time and it's something I just have to accept, like it or not.

Work Prep Week!

5 Professional development workshops and classes February 24-28

Time Management Workshop: Partcipants are introduced to a new way of approaching tme and personal performance. Each person learns how to save time and increase output in every area of life. The process deals with both the practice and the psychology of time management.

Job Search Workshop: This workshop helps partcipants to develop personal employability marketing tools. This workshop is ideal for people interested in entering the job market, or are interested in looking to change jobs.

WHMIS: WHMIS stands for Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System. It is a nationwide system to provide informatiton on hazardous materials used in the workplace. This 1/2 day course will provide the atendees with basic informaton about WHMIS, such as: Labeling, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) Worker Educaton. Exam to follow each class.

First Aid and CPR: This course prepares you to deal with the everyday bumps and scrapes of home and work as well as the skills needed to save a life. We believe that everyone should be prepared to respond in an emergency situaton.

Food Safe Level 1: FOODSAFE Level 1 is a food handling, sanitation and work safety course designed for front line food service workers such as cooks, servers, bussers, dishwashers, and deli workers. The course covers important food safety and worker safety information including foodborne illness, receiving and storing food, preparing food, serving food, cleaning and sanitizing.

Cost: Free with perfect attendance and punctuality

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acert adult centre for employment readiness & training

For more information and registration please call 306.791.6533 ext. 231 or email victoriaf@reginafoodbank.ca

Activists smuggling stray dogs out of Sochi

Animal activist Igor Airapetian carries a stray dog brought out of Sochi by a fellow activist at a rendezvous point in Tuapse, Russia, 120 kilometres away from the Olympic area on Tuesday. Airapetian is one of a dozen people in the emerging movement of animal activists in Sochi alarmed by reports that the city has contracted the killing of thousands of stray dogs before and during the Olympic Games. DAVID GOLDMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Americans go whole hog for bacon festivals

'Pigging out'.
1.5 billion pounds of smoked and cured pig meat is eaten in the U.S. every single year

Get ready for bacon like you've never eaten, drunk or worn it before.

Bacon milkshakes. Chocolate-covered bacon shaped like roses. Bacon-flavoured toothpaste, dental floss and lip balm. Bacon bourbon, margaritas, beer and vodka. Bacon ice cream sundaes. A BLT sandwich with a full pound of bacon.

An entire pound of bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich at the Tropicana Casino and Resort. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

They're all on the menu this week as one Atlantic City casino stretches the bounds of good taste and cardiovascular health with Bacon Week. The festival at the Tropicana Casino and Resort gives new meaning to the term "pigging out."

The idea of a bacon festival is not as far-fetched as it might sound. Americans eat about 1.5 billion pounds of bacon a year, according to the National Pork Board. And the website bacontoday.com counted nearly 30 bacon festivals around the country from late April through December 2013, many of whose tickets sold out in minutes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sorry ladies, no 'female Viagra' this V-Day

The pharmaceutical industry's 15-year epic hunt for a female equivalent to Viagra hit another roadblock Tuesday. The Food and Drug Administration in the U.S. wants more research on flibanserin, formulated to boost sexual desire in women, by Sprout Pharmaceuticals. The FDA wants more data on how the pink tablet interacts with other medications and how it affects driving ability. Nearly 10 per cent of women studied in company trials reported sleepiness while taking the daily pill. ALLEN G. BREED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NSA leaks in U.S.

Tech firms urge changes to spying

A coalition of America's leading technology firms is urging changes in the government's spying programs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
90.77¢
(+0.31¢)

Natural gas: $4.92 US (+$0.29)
Dow Jones: 15,994.77 (+192.98)

TSX
13,880.99 (+86.81)

OIL
$99.94 US (-$0.12)

GOLD
$1,289.80 US (+$15.10)

PROPOSED 2014 BUDGET

Investing in growth and opportunities.

Our city is growing rapidly. We've welcomed thousands of new residents in recent years, while maintaining one of Canada's lowest unemployment rates.

The 2014 Budget sustains our growth and takes advantage of the opportunities ahead.

With the proposed increase of our capital and operating budget to $534.2 million, the City will invest in:

- Continued growth
- Increased quality of life for Regina residents
- Improved City services

For more information on how your tax dollars are invested in Regina, visit **Regina.ca**

City of Regina | REGINA Infinite Horizons

THE PROBLEM(S) WITH PARENTS

JUST SAYIN'

Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

Having children changes people. Often for the better, but we all know at least one couple that has gone completely overboard. Whether they're overprotective, insanely health-conscious, educationally obsessed or they want to breastfeed until the kid is in his teens, we can all agree that they freak the rest of us out.

I'm not sure when the co-sleeping fad began, but the theory that keeping a newborn close after birth might ease their separation anxiety seems plausible enough. Then, some took it a step too far and decided that a baby should be immediately held and only released into the arms of the other parent and back for an extended part of their infancy. This includes sleeping and bathing with the child. No independent bedroom. No crib. Perpetual togetherness.

Hey, why stop there? Why not leave the umbilical cord until it falls off and you have it bronzed and turned into a bracelet that the child can wear as a reminder of this glorious eternal connection? No, that would be weird.

And how about mastication? We all do it, but some parents believe in pre-masticating. In 2012, Alicia Silverstone posted a video on her mommy blog of her chewing food and then inserting it DIRECTLY from her mouth into that of her one-year-old.

Silverstone's response to public outcry was that it was perfectly normal and people have been doing it for thousands of years, and she's right. Those people are called birds. In fairness though, it's not like she was planning on doing that forever. Eventually, she'll spit into a bowl or something. I mean, the kid's gotta learn to use a spoon sometime, right?

The vegan even had the audacity to proclaim, "Just had a delicious breakfast of miso soup, collards and radish... yum! Fed Bear a bit from my mouth to his. It's his favourite and mine."

Mmmm. That certainly does sound delicious. And imagine the preschool conversation.

"What'cha got? Apple sauce?"

"Nah, steamed radish and kale. Pre-chewed. Trade you for that Twinkie?"

But who are we to judge? Perhaps children should be free to adjust at their own pace without the stress of sleeping and bathing in companionless isolation. Is it fair to prematurely pressure a child to learn to use a toilet? Or walk, or chew, or deal with a world full of... spontaneity? Why? So they can cope? You show me a person who copes, and I'll show you someone who probably doesn't call their mother often enough. Is that the kind of person with whom you want your child sharing the world?

All sarcasm aside, there is a fine line between not doing enough for your children, and doing way too much.

In the immortal words of Pink Floyd on The Wall, "Mother, did it need to be so high?"

Mike is filling in for Paul Sullivan, who will return next week.

ZOOM

Winter Olympics a.k.a. Warm Olympics

LUCA BRUNO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mountain sports affected by weather

The forecast for the next day's temperature is reflected in the ski goggles of a volunteer at the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics Tuesday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. Warm temperatures in the mountains made the snow too soft and caused the cancellation of women's downhill training on Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Athletes trying to chill out on the runs

Cross-country skiers are looking for the right wax to cut through the mush. Jumpers are trying to land in snow that's way too soft. Freestyle skiers and snowboarders are bailing out of their best tricks on courses that are melting under the Sochi sun. Temperatures climbed well above 10 C even on the highest hills.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's in the past

- Four years ago, too-warm, too-wet weather in Whistler delayed the start of racing.
- At Turin in 2006, the women's super-G was postponed 24 hours, and the combined event was split over two days.
- Skiing at Nagano in 1998 waited for two days, and officials shoehorned nine races into 10 days.
- At Sarajevo in 1984, both downhills were postponed.
- And the last pre-Olympic World Cup weekend for Alpine skiing shared a similar fate.

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

With its sudden removal from the Android and iOS app stores over the weekend, Flappy Bird appears to have flown into its final pipe. Fortunately, like everything popular that disappears from the Internet, the beloved — if slightly masochistic — game has returned ... in clone form! Minutes after the game was pulled by its Vietnamese developer, app stores were flooded by thinly-veiled imitations. We here at Metro played some of them, so that you don't have to.

CONTRIBUTED

IronPants:

It's exactly like Flappy Bird, if you replaced the bird with a caped superhero and the pipes with boxes! It's one of the more polished clones, so expect it to fare well.

Cute Tiny Birds:

Guide a bird that looks like Toucan Sam on a quest to snag rings that suspiciously resemble Froot Loops. Get it quick before Kellogg's sues it out of existence.

Flappy Doge:

If you don't have an Android or Apple device but still want to deflate your self-esteem, you can always try Flappy Doge. The browser-based game replaces the titular bird with everyone's favourite memetic Shiba Inu.

Fly Birdie:

If Flappy Bird was too difficult for you (so, basically everyone), try Fly Birdie. The game works on the same principle, except the space between the maddening pipes is vastly increased.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Don't break up on Valentine's Day, or ignore the holiday, says @MetroSheSays. What's another V-Day faux pas?

@twharding: don't propose. Save that for a different day so it's more special.

@thingleaderof5: don't break up BEFORE Valentine's day, to be with your new "one". Trust me, it sucks.

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Action

RoboCop

Director. José Padilha

It's 2028 and conglomerate OmniCorp is at the centre of robot technology. Overseas, their drones have been used by the military for years, and it's meant billions for OmniCorp's bottom line. Now OmniCorp wants to bring their controversial technology to the home front, and they see a golden opportunity to do it. When Alex Murphy (Joel Kinnaman) — a husband, father and good cop doing his best to stem the tide of crime and corruption in Detroit — is critically injured in the line of duty, OmniCorp sees their chance to build a part-man, part-robot police officer.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics:	Audience:
52%	97%

Obituary

Iconic child star of 1930s dies at 85

Shirley Temple GETTY IMAGES

Shirley Temple, the dimpled, curly-haired child star who sang, danced, sobbed and grinned her way into the hearts of Depression-era moviegoers, has died, according to publicist Cheryl Kagan. She was 85.

Temple, known in private life as Shirley Temple Black, died Monday night at about 11 p.m. at her home near San Francisco. She was surrounded by family members and caregivers, Kagan said.

A talented and ultra-adorable entertainer, Shirley Temple was America's top box-office draw from 1935 to 1938, a record no other child star has come near. She beat out such grown-ups as Clark Gable, Bing Crosby, Robert Taylor, Gary Cooper and Joan Crawford. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New RoboCop winks at dystopian original

Swedish actor Joel Kinnaman stars as the new RoboCop. CONTRIBUTED

Back to the future. IMAX remake of RoboCop plays up realism foretold by 1987 original

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

If the original RoboCop movie is any indication, sometimes life does imitate art.

The 1987 film shows a crime-ridden and financially ruined Detroit turning to a part-human, part-robot cop to police the streets. As far as I know, no cyborgs have ever patrolled the neighbourhoods of Motor City, but 27 years after the movie hit theatres, Michigan's most populous city declared Chapter Nine, becoming the largest municipal bankruptcy filing in U.S. history.

Prescient? Perhaps.

Fosterwealth.com wrote, "With Detroit's bankruptcy, we've seen much of RoboCop come to pass," while screenwriter Ed Neumeier remembers a note written in the margin of his copy of the script, "The future left Detroit behind."

The writer also told CNN, "We are now living in the world that I was proposing in RoboCop."

The original Peter Weller movie lived at the centre of popular culture when it came out, spawning two sequels, a television series, two animated shows, a mini-series, video games and several comic books.

And today RoboCop is still a going concern.

Fresh take

"I'm not trying to remake RoboCop, because I don't think RoboCop is remake-able."
Director José Padilha

Later this year a 10-foot-tall tribute statue will be unveiled in Detroit and this week a remake will become the first RoboCop movie to be released in IMAX.

The new RoboCop is an all-star affair, with Swedish star Joel Kinnaman as the title character and appearances from Gary Oldman, Michael Keaton, Samuel L. Jackson and Jay Baruchel. Just don't expect a straight-up copy. "I'm not trying to remake RoboCop," says director José Padilha, "because I don't think RoboCop is remake-able."

Instead, Kinnaman says, the new film will be "realistic," and "will have a satirical quality... It's going to have that wink in the eye, but we're not looking to replicate the [original director Paul] Verhoeven tone."

The one thing the two films have in common for sure is that while both are set in Detroit, neither used the city as the principal shooting location. Verhoeven filmed his movie in Pennsylvania and Texas whereas the new movie was lensed mainly in Toronto and Vancouver.

Film hits the fan

RoboCop busts a moviegoer

Another incident illustrates how the film aided real life law enforcement… at least once.

A robbery suspect/movie fan in Sacramento, Calif., tried to elude police by hiding out in a movie theatre showing RoboCop. He became so immersed in the film he didn't notice the cops evacuating the audience, leaving him alone and busted when the lights came on.

Rosie Huntington-Whiteley ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Is it ring-around-the-Rosie time for Victoria's Secret model and Jason Statham?

Rosie Huntington-Whiteley is sure excited about something coming up with boyfriend Jason Statham, although she won't go into specifics — but that's not stopping others from speculating that there might be a summer wedding planned for the pair. "There are a few things in my personal life that are very exciting that I probably can't elaborate on," she tells the Sunday Times in an otherwise quite candid interview. "I think the longer you are together, the more you look out for each other, the more you become invested in each others' lives," she says. "We really are a team. We are deeply connected. We are best mates and it's a beautiful thing. I feel truly lucky. He's a warm spirit."

Miley Cyrus

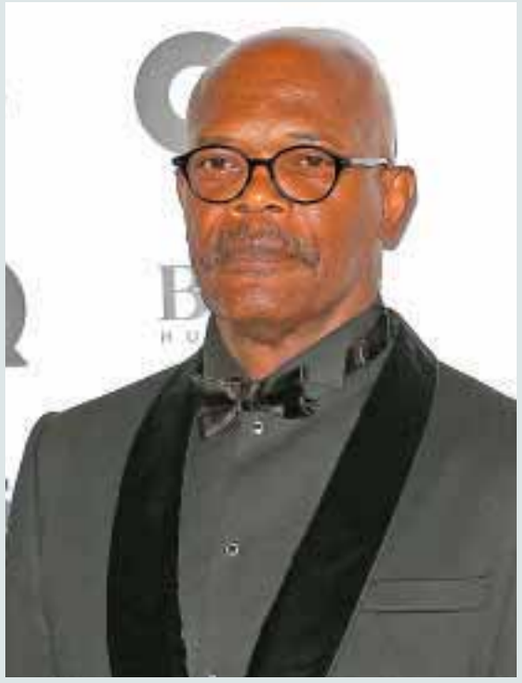
Miley is over Hollywood Hills and for ready for the high-rise life

Miley Cyrus is reportedly considering ditching the Hollywood Hills lifestyle in favour of a high-rise condo in downtown Los Angeles, according to Star magazine. "Miley's security situation has been a massive issue for the last year. She would like to come and go as she pleases and feel safe alone in her home, and that just isn't happening with her current house," a source says. "She's thinking of buying a condo in a downtown L.A. high-rise instead of continue to deal with stalkers and lunatics trying to break into her hillside home at all hours of the day."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



It's not all the same to Jackson when reporter mistakes him for Fishburne

A Los Angeles newscaster apologized to Samuel L. Jackson for confusing him with fellow actor Laurence Fishburne during a live TV interview.

KTLA entertainment reporter Sam Rubin was interviewing Jackson on Monday about the film RoboCop when he asked the actor if he'd gotten a lot of reaction to his recent Super Bowl commercial.

When Jackson asked, "What Super Bowl commercial?" Rubin realized his mistake and began to apologize. But it was too late.

"You're as crazy as the people on Twitter," an animated Jackson, who was doing the interview by satellite from Atlanta, told Rubin. "I'm not Laurence Fishburne. We don't all look alike. We may be all black and famous but we don't all look alike."

As Rubin, who is white, tried to apologize, a smiling Jackson went on at length, listing various black actors and their commercials. Video of the exchange quickly went viral.

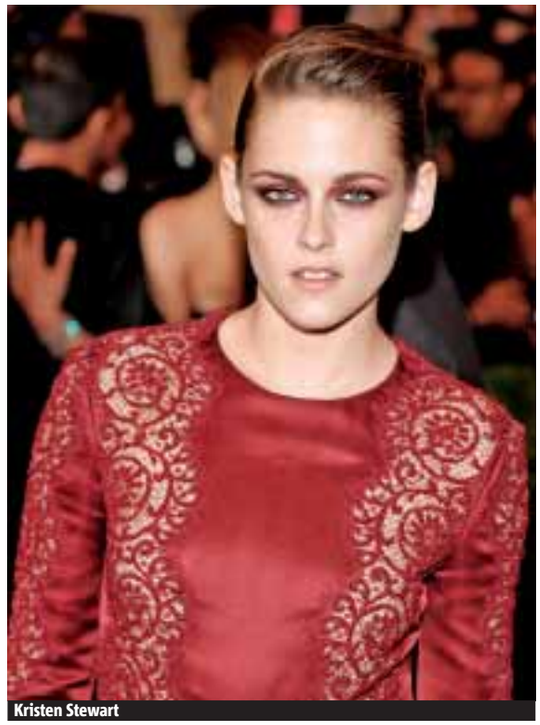
"I'm the 'What's in Your Wallet,' black guy," he said of his own commercial for a credit-card company. "He's the car black guy. Morgan Freeman is the other credit-card black guy. You only hear his voice, though, so you probably won't confuse him with Laurence Fishburne."

Fishburne, as the character Morpheus from the Matrix movies, appeared in the Super Bowl commercial for Kia automobiles.

The pair eventually got back to talking about RoboCop, with Jackson telling Rubin how highly he regards Michael Keaton and Gary Oldman, who appear in the film with him.

"You do know who they all are though, right?" he teased. "Just in case they have some of them on the show. Do some work. Do some research. Make sure you don't confuse them with those other white actors."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Kristen Stewart

Director's love may still brew but for K-Stew the affair is through

After the affair between Kristen Stewart and her married Snow White and the Huntsman director, Rupert Sanders, went public in the summer of 2012, they each apologized to their significant others and went their separate ways — or so it seemed.

"They are still in contact, and incredibly Rupert is still hoping for a future together. But Kristen has come to her senses and doesn't want to damage her image more," a source tells Radar Online.

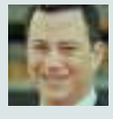
"Even though he has admitted to everyone in his life that the long-brewing affair was a terrible idea, he still hasn't been able to get over his feelings for Kristen. He fell in love with her a long time before he laid a finger on her, and he's finding it difficult to shake."

While Stewart has since parted ways with then-boyfriend Robert Pattinson and Sanders was hit with divorce papers by wife Liberty Ross, a reunion doesn't seem likely, despite what Sanders might want.

"Rupert, against all better judgment, still holds out hope that he and Kristen can get things going again, but he's completely deluded," the source explains.

"She would never put her career on the line like that again."

Twitter



@jimmykimmel
It's so cute Matt Damon thinks anybody cares what he has to say

@ABFalecbaldwin
Madre de Dios, it's snowing here in Madrid!!

@JuddApatow
I keep taping the Olympics and then accidentally seeing who won on the Internet. Who has the time to see anything when it happens?

Dip your toe into Africa

Namibia. Try a road trip, hiking up sand dunes or a four-wheeler adventure in this southwestern African nation

ANDREW JOHN VIRTUE DOBSON
dobbernation
dobbernationloves.com

The hike up the dune nicknamed Big Daddy, in Namib-Naukluft National Park, is a three-hour fitness challenge. ANDREW JOHN VIRTUE DOBSON/FOR METRO

Europeans have been keeping this a secret. For years they have quietly been adventuring through Namibia, renting cars and hitting the road in search of an Africa that still seems untouched by the tourist hordes that descend on destinations like South Africa and Tanzania. Those looking to plan the ultimate African road trip will find an affordable and safe adventure here.

The mighty dunes of Sossusvlei

One of Namibia's star tourist attractions can be found in the Namib-Naukluft National Park. Photography fans will need to ready themselves for the jaw dropping views of Sossusvlei, a huge clay area enclosed by giant sand dunes. A real fitness challenge for any visitor is the three-hour hike up Big Daddy, a sand dune considered to be the world's tallest, towering 380 metres above the landscape. After you catch your breath, take a few minutes to admire the eerie Deadvlei, where dead trees — some believed to be more than 900 years old — stand silent against the sun-scorched clay landscape.

Exploring the coast

Located on the Atlantic coast, Swakopmund is the breezy beach resort where Angelina Jolie gave birth to her and Brad Pitt's first biological child. While the city offers a few blocks of worthwhile shopping, tourists are mostly here to enjoy the adventures in the nearby countryside.

Thrill seekers can hop on a four-wheeled motorbike and zoom over the boundless expanse of shifting sand dunes. You can spend hours zigzagging through the world's largest sandbox. A quick drive to the south of Swakopmund is Walvis Bay Harbour, where you can hop on a boat trip along the coast. The yachts are chased by enthusiastic pelicans as they make their way to the massive Cape fur seal colony in the region. If you're lucky you'll also spot a few dolphins.

Safari thrills at Etosha National Park

If you want to enjoy the thrill of a quintessential African safari, you will want to add Namibia's crown jewel, Etosha National Park, to your itinerary. Etosha's watering holes, scattered throughout the park's 22,000 square kilometres, are the gathering place for a number of exotic animals, with an estimated 300 lions, 200 rhinos, 2,000 giraffes and 1,500 elephants that call the park home.

A common sight are the dainty springbok. It's estimated more than 30,000 of these brown and white antelope-gazelles can be found prancing about in enormous herds through the park.

About Namibia

Namibia derives its name from the Namib Desert. It stretches 2,000 kilometres from the Orange River in the south to the Kunene in the north. While Namibia is four times the size of the U.K., it is the most sparsely populated country in the world. In the 1800s, Germany used the port town of Swakopmund as its main harbour while colonizing southwest Africa. Namibia's connection to Germany is still present: Air Namibia flies visitors to Windhoek through Frankfurt. Visit airnamibia.aero.

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BARBADOS

Get into the Olympic spirit at Whistler

Lots of legacy. The Vancouver Games left behind a host of great venues — now open to tourists looking for a taste of Olympic glory

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Slide the same track that the 2010 Olympians zoomed down at the Whistler Sliding Centre. BC LIVING/FLICKR

With the 2014 Sochi Olympic Games upon us, Whistler — proud co-host of the 2010 Games — is keeping its Olympic legacy alive and well by allowing tourists to follow in the tracks of champions.

The skeleton course at the Whistler Sliding Centre is the fastest and steepest track in the world. I recently took the head first plunge down the icy track; in the final bend my speed clocked in at 95.6 kilometres an hour. It took me 31 seconds to complete, just enough time to be exhilarated and terrified in the same breath. If you are more comfortable with strength in numbers, you can also try out the bobsled in groups of four. Both experiences will cost you $169 plus tax.

The mountains of Whistler Blackcomb offer more than 8,000 acres of skiable terrain, but skiers and boarders shouldn't miss the official alpine venue. The Dave Murray Downhill and Franz's runs on Whistler Mountain were part of both the men and women's alpine events during the 2010 Winter Games. Anyone with a lift ticket can follow in the athletes' tracks; their speeds may be harder to replicate. There are numerous packages available which will save you some money, but count on roughly $100 a day for lift tickets.

Those interested in Nordic skiing are welcome to check out Whistler Olympic Park. The 56 kilometres of public ski trails are groomed for both skate and classical skiers, and range from beginner to bona fide Olympic levels. Entry to the park is $10. With the guidance of an instructor, you can also try your hand at biathlon using a .22 calibre rifle. After doing a skate ski loop, you are given five rounds to fire at a target. Be warned that after some cardio excursion and fresh mountain air, the steady hand and even breathing required to be a straight shooter do not come easily.

For those who prefer to follow in the athletes' footsteps without breaking a sweat, check out Whistler Olympic Plaza. Once the medal ceremonies were finished, the space was converted into an outdoor performance space featuring art celebrating the Games and an outdoor skating rink in the winter months. You can also spend the night in Cheakamus Crossing, site of the Athletes Village, by getting a room in the Hostelling International hostel. Once home to the athletes, it's been converted into an extremely affordable 55-bed hostel.

Bucket List

Swiss Alps can revive the spirit

Weggis, a little town just across the river from Lucerne, Switzerland, is your springboard to 1,800-metre Mount Rigi in the pre-Alps. The town is enjoying a resurgence of its former status as a spa playground in the 1940s, though it's been known for its healing waters since the 16th century (Queen Victoria and Mark Twain were both big fans). Leading the revival is the Rigi Kaltbad Mineral Baths & Spa, built into the mountain. But don't stop there: Head to the very top of the mountain via cogwheel railway to Rigi Kulm and drink in the view, winter or summer. Visit luzern.com/en/rigi.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

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Contest

Show our athletes love

Air Canada is hosting a Rise Up Canada contest, where you can enter to win one of four $500 Air Canada gift cards. With each entry, Canadians increase the value of the gift cards given to all 250 Canadian Olympic athletes. The grand prize is a trip for two to the Summer Games in Rio. Visit riseupcanada.ca.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Trend

Ski trip GPS

High tech ski resorts offer GPS systems that not only keep track of your kids, but also your skiing, too. Manage the day's data yourself with a tracking app. Ski Tracks GPS is the most popular, logging distance, speed, altitude, slope angles and more. $0.99 at iTunes and Google Play.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

How-to

Keep travel expenses down

1. Select the red-eye flight to shave a night — or two — off the hotel bill. 2. Skip the expensive hotel laundry service and Google your nearest laundromat instead. (Bonus: You can pack lighter.) 3. Negotiate a travel plan for your mobile phone. 4. Never ever touch the mini bar. BYOB — just not in your carry-on, please.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Spoil your sweetie with sugary decadence

Sweet Week. Midway through Metro's Valentine's Day treats series, we indulge in a sophisticated cake

To be classified as chocolate, white chocolate has to have at least 20 per cent cocoa butter. This cake has a secret ingredient, with white chocolate in both the cake and frosting.

1. Cake: Coat a 15-cm (6-inch) cake pan with non-stick cooking spray and lightly flour. Line bottom of pan with parchment, then spray and flour again.

2. In heatproof bowl, melt white chocolate in microwave for 15 seconds, then stir. Repeat until half chocolate is melted.

3. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, salt, baking soda, buttermilk and butter. Mix on low speed with electric mixer until all dry ingredients are completely moistened. Stir in melted chocolate.

4. In a clean, dry bowl, beat egg whites and vanilla until stiff peaks form. Gently fold batter into egg whites. Spread evenly in cake pan. Tap on counter to remove any air bubbles.

5. Bake in a 180 C (350 F) oven for 20 to 30 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean (cake does not develop a typical outside skin). Let cool in pan on a rack, then remove from pan.

6. Frosting: In heatproof bowl, melt white chocolate in microwave for 15 seconds, then stir. Repeat until half the chocolate is melted. In a large bowl, beat softened cream cheese until smooth. Gradually beat in melted chocolate. Add butter and vanilla and blend thoroughly until smooth. Ice cooled cake.

7. Top with dark chocolate shavings and maraschino cherries.

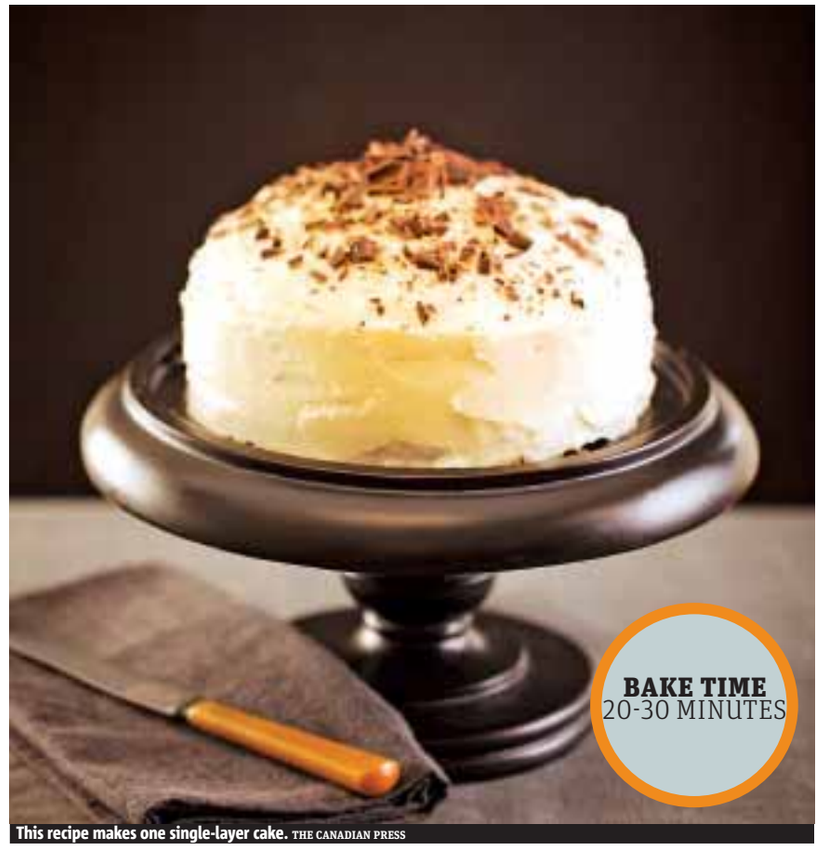
Ingredients

Cake
- 85 g (3 oz) white chocolate, chopped
- 300 ml (1 1/4 cups) flour
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) sugar
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) baking soda
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) buttermilk
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) butter, softened
- 4 large egg whites
- 5 ml (1 tsp) vanilla

White Chocolate Frosting
- 125 g (4 oz) white chocolate, chopped
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) cream cheese, softened
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) butter, softened
- 5 ml (1 tsp) vanilla

Topping
- 50 g (1 3/4 oz) dark chocolate shavings
- Maraschino cherries

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ GARY MITCHELL, HEAD CHOCOLATIER, PURDYS CHOCOLATIER, VANCOUVER.



This recipe makes one single-layer cake. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dessert. Dark Chocolate Dipping Sauce

1. Pierce fruit onto small skewers alternating fruit.

2. In small saucepan, heat milk over medium heat until steaming. Whisk in chocolate and vanilla until chocolate is melted and smooth. Serve with fruit.

EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients
- 16 skewers
- 8 fresh strawberries, halved
- 20 large fresh raspberries or blueberries
- 2 bananas, peeled and cut into 8 pieces each

Dark Chocolate Dipping Sauce
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) milk
- 125 g (4 oz) bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) vanilla

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SPORTS 4

Howell-in' for you

Slopestyle skiing. Huntsville, Ont., skier wins gold on strength of dominant first run in final; Quebec's Lamarre claims bronze

On a day when ski slopestyle queen Kaya Turski crashed out after being laid low by a virus, fellow Canadian Dara Howell stepped up and threw down a memorable run.

The dominant performance earned the bubbly 19-year-old from Huntsville, Ont., gold in the inaugural Olympic ski slopestyle competition Tuesday. Quebec City's Kim Lamarre nailed her final run to claim bronze behind American Devin Logan and complete a day of thrills and spills at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park.

Slopestyle is Don Cherry's kind of Olympic sport — rock 'em, sock 'em on skis. It is high-risk, high-reward stuff, combining eye-popping tricks with stomach-cringing crashes.

Turski showed amazing grit in popping her shoulder back on the course after her first fall. And sixth-place Yuki Tsubota of Whistler, B.C., was stretchered off the course and taken to hospital with a suspected jaw injury from a tumbling crash-landing of truly Olympic proportions.

But the day belonged to Howell and her exclamation-point first run in the final.

"At this point in time I think it's one of the most exceptional runs that's ever been done by a girl," said Peter Judge, CEO of the Canadian Freestyle Ski Association and the Canadian freestyle team leader. "Not only the execution of each of the tricks but the overall cleanliness and flow of the tricks, the DD (degree of difficulty). (In) almost every piece of it, she excelled."

Howell's winning run earned a score of 94.20, well ahead of Logan (85.40) and Lamarre (85.00), with the teenager nailing the switch misty mute nine jump (an off-axis full twisting flip) that only she does on the women's circuit.

"I think that's the best run I've ever done in my entire life," said an ecstatic Howell, who was cheered on by a vocal, red-clad pod of family including her parents.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"The course just worked for me today. I could not be happier." Dara Howell

Taking a lickin', but still kickin'

Japan's Chiho Takao needed to be helped off the course at the bottom after crashing in the first qualifying run. Sweden's Emma Dahlström also took a nasty tumble, catching her ski on a rail before hitting it hard with her body and sliding off.

- Amazingly both took their beating and came back for more in a sport that will definitely leave a bruise. Ironically the only mark Howell had was two stitches on her nose, courtesy of knocking over a lamp in her room at the athletes village.

Canada's Dara Howell celebrates after winning the gold medal in women's freestyle skiing slopestyle at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park on Tuesday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. ANDY WONG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sask. family at Games with cowbells on

Paige Lawrence and Rudi Swiegers compete in the pairs short program on Day 4 of the Winter Olympics on Tuesday in Sochi. PAUL GILHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Canada's Paige Lawrence and Rudi Swiegers brought a little Vancouver good luck to the Sochi Olympics.

The day before they departed for Sochi, Jon Montgomery's uncle George presented the pairs figure skaters with the cowbell he used to cheer on his nephew during his memorable gold-medal run in skeleton four years ago in Vancouver.

Montgomery didn't make the skeleton team for Sochi.

"It's a big deal, it was a really special moment," Lawrence said of the gift.

Coming up short

13th

Lawrence and Swiegers scored 58.97 to finish 13th after the short program on Tuesday. Fellow Canadians Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford were fifth.

George lives near the Virden, Man., rink where Lawrence, a Kipling, Sask., native, and Swiegers, from Kennedy, Sask., train. Their practice ends at 11:50 a.m. each day, and George often plays hockey at noon.

"He always comes and stands at the door to the ice and watches a little bit of our practice," Lawrence said. "The day before we came here, we went over and gave him a hug. He said, since Jon isn't going, I want to send this bell that we used when he won the gold.

"And that was really cool."

Lawrence's family was ringing the bell on Tuesday. Her mom Leanne, dad Jim, a former pro bullrider, and brothers Jesse and Dawson are in Sochi to cheer her on.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Around Sochi

Fleur-de-lis flurry

Quebec athletes continue to lead the way for Canada in Sochi, with Kim Lamarre's bronze in slopestyle skiing giving the province six of Canada's nine medals. And there's likely more to come, with Charles Hamelin among those looking to up the sum.

Gough just misses

Alex Gough produced the best Canadian Olympic result ever in luge, but don't expect the Calgary slider to be satisfied. Gough was tearful after racing to a fourth-place as Canada still looks for its first Olympic medal in luge.

McDreamy

According to Twitter statistics over a recent 24-hour period, Canada's first medallist is a heart throb on social media. An image of snowboarder Mark McMorris was the most retweeted globally with more than 16,000 retweets and some 30,000 favourites.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

No period of grace for Canada

Team Canada goalies Carey Price and Roberto Luongo talk during practice at the Sochi Winter Olympics on Tuesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Men's hockey. Players put past insurance adversity behind them as they fast forward to their opening game

Patrick Sharp wore hockey gloves, held a hockey stick but didn't have hockey skates on his feet.

Sneakers replaced those for ball hockey walk-throughs at Canada's Olympic orientation camp in August because players weren't insured to skate.

At one time Sharp wondered about the absurdity of the situation.

"You kind of think to yourself, 'Is this really going to pay off come February?' And it does," Sharp said, now with the benefit of hindsight. "Since we've been here, things are happening quick and it seems like we're picking up where we left off in the summertime."

What was a punchline back then in retrospect became one step of Team Canada's journey to Sochi. Only now, after a couple of days of practice at Bolshoy Ice Dome, are players seeing the fruits of that exercise as they prepare to open the Olympic tournament Thursday against Norway.

"We did some drills today that were a little bit of evolution of that," forward John Tavares said. "Just some very basic things in the summer, then you kind of just (get a) refresher and obviously a little bit more intense once you're on the ice."

Tuesday's practice was much more reminiscent of an actual NHL workout than the brief skate Canada got in Monday night several hours after landing.

With only a limited amount of time to turn 25 stars into a team before the games begin, coaches turned immediately to drilling on systems and special teams.

The players are finally able to concentrate on the task at hand in Sochi. For a long time they had to put the Olympics out of mind and worry about their own NHL teams and their own problems.

A night's sleep in the athletes village and a hard-working, hard-learning practice got players into a groove.

"You've got to kind of stop your thinking that, 'Hey, there's Sidney Crosby from the Penguins and (start thinking) 'That's Sidney Crosby from Team Canada,'" Sharp said. "That's the team we're playing for now. We're all together. I think we feel that way now, already in Day 2."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Women's hockey

Canada faces its arch-rival the United States in their final preliminary round game on Wednesday.

- **Semifinal bound.** Both teams locked up spots in the final four after 2-0 starts.
- **Not holding back.** Players and coaches on both teams insist they won't keep strategy or anything under wraps despite a possible rematch in the medal round.

Curling. Jones, Canada triumph over Sweden

Skip Jennifer Jones curled a perfect game on Tuesday as Canada remained undefeated in round-robin play after a 9-3 victory in eight ends over Sweden in the women's curling tournament at the Sochi Winter Games.

The Winnipeg native made all 16 of her shots as the Canadians got on the board first with two in the second end, and followed that with two more apiece in the fourth and sixth ends. Jones sealed the victory with three in the eighth.

"I never look at the stats, but I felt like we played really well as a team today," said Jones. "The girls just left me some makeable shots and I made them."

Margaretha Sigfridsson and her Swedish rink (1-1) took singles in the third, fifth, and seventh ends.

"We played a good game," Sigfridsson said, "but that is not enough when you play a team that is playing perfect."

The Canadian rink was pleased about its perfect record two days into the tournament.

Canada faces Great Britain in its next match on Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada skip Jennifer Jones.
ROBERT F. BUKATY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Men suffer meltdown

Brad Jacobs and Canada lost their second game in a row falling 7-6 to Sweden on Tuesday.

- **Swede Victory.** Skip Niklas Edin won it on the final throw of the match
- **Ohh Canada.** Our team from Sault Ste. Marie fell to 1-2 including Monday's 5-4 upset by Switzerland. Sweden improved to 3-0.

MEDALS

Nation	G	S	B	Tot.
Norway	4	3	4	11
Canada	**4**	**3**	**2**	**9**
Netherlands	3	2	3	8
United States of America	2	1	4	7
Russian Federation	1	3	3	7

WHAT CANADA DID

TUESDAY

BIATHLON

Women's 10 km Pursuit - Zina Kocher, Red Deer, Alta., 25th, (32 minutes, 15.1 seconds, +2 minutes, 44.4 seconds); Megan Imrie, Falcon Lake, Man., 28th, (32:22.7); Rosanna Crawford, Canmore, Alta., 45th, (34:15.6); Megan Heinicke, Prince George, B.C., DNF.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Ladies' Sprint Free Qualification - x-Perianne Jones, Almonte, Ont., 23rd, (two minutes 38.63 seconds, +6.56 seconds); x-Daria Gaiazova, Banff, Alta., 27th, (2:40.04); Heidi Widmer, Banff, Alta., 43rd, (2:43.36); Chandra Crawford, Canmore, Alta., 44th, (2:43.59).

x- qualified for quarter-final

Ladies' Sprint Free Quarter-finals - Heat 2: Daria Gaiazova, Banff, Alta., 5th, (two minutes 40.45 seconds, +3.44 seconds); **Heat 5:** Perianne Jones, Almonte, Ont., 5th, (2:38.66, +3.79 seconds)

Ladies's Sprint Free Final Ranking: Perianne Jones, Almonte, Ont., 23rd; Daria Gaiazova, Banff, Alta., 25th; Heidi Widmer, Banff, Alta., 43rd; Chandra Crawford, Canmore, Alta., 44th.

Men's Sprint Free Qualification - x-Alex Harvey, St-Ferreol-les-neiges, Que., 19th, (three minutes, 36.08 seconds, +7.73 seconds); Len Valjas, Toronto, 36th, (3:39.87); Jesse Cockney, Canmore, Alta., 53rd, (3:44.36); Devon Kershaw, Sudbury, Ont., 56th, (3:45.77)

x- qualified for quarter-final

Men's Sprint Free Quarter-finals - Heat 4: Alex Harvey, St-Ferreol-les-neiges, Que., 4th, (three minutes, 37.89 minutes, +1.75 seconds).

Men's Sprint Free Final Ranking: Alex Harvey, St-Ferreol-les-neiges, Que., 19th; Len Valjas, Toronto, 36th; Jesse Cockney, Canmore, Alta., 53rd; Devon Kershaw, Sudbury, Ont., 56th

CURLING

Women's Round Robin - Canada 9 Sweden 3

Men's Round Robin - Sweden 7 Canada 6

FIGURE SKATING

Pairs Short Program - x-Meagan Duhamel (Lively, Ont.) and Eric Radford (Balmertown, Ont.), 5th, (72.21); x-Kirsten Moore-Towers (St. Catharines, Ont.) and Dylan Moscovitch (Toronto), 6th, (70.92); x-Paige Lawrence (Kennedy, Sask.) and Rudi Swiegers (Kipling, Sask.), 13th, (58.97).

x- qualified for the Free Program on Feb. 12.

FREESTYLE SKIING

Ladies' Ski Slopestyle Qualification - x-Dara Howell, Huntsville, Ont., 1st, (88.80); x-Kim Lamarre, Quebec City, 2nd, (85.40); x-Yuki Tsubota, Whistler, B.C., 4th, (81.00); Kaya Turski, Montreal, 19th, (28.00).

x- qualified for final

Ladies' Ski Slopestyle Final - Dara Howell, Huntsville, Ont., **Gold Medal**, (94.20); Kim Lamarre, Quebec City, **Bronze Medal**, (85.00); Yuki Tsubota, Whistler, B.C., 6th, (71.60).

LUGE

Women's Singles Run 3 - Alex Gough, Calgary, 4th, (50.286 seconds, +0.521); Kimberley McRae, Calgary, 5th, (50.356); Arianne Jones, Calgary, 11th (50.745).

Women's Singles Run 4 - Alex Gough, Calgary, 5th, (50.426 seconds, +0.237); Kimberley McRae, Calgary, 5th, (50.620); Arianne Jones, Calgary, 10th (50.608).

Women's Singles Final Ranking: Alex Gough, Calgary, 4th, (three minutes, 21.578 seconds, +1.81 seconds); Kimberley McRae, Calgary, 5th, (3:21.895); Arianne Jones, Calgary, 13th, (3:23.183).

SKI JUMPING

Ladies' Normal Hill Individual 1st Round - Taylor Henrich, Calgary, 7th, (118.2 points); Atsuko Tanaka, Calgary, 8th, (117.8 points).

Ladies' Normal Hill Individual Final Round - Atsuko Tanaka, Calgary, 12th, (231.3 points); Taylor Henrich, Calgary, 13th, (230.4 points);

SNOWBOARD

Men's Halfpipe Qualification - Heat 1: Derek Livingston, Aurora, Ont., 10th (70.25); **Heat 2:** Crispin Lipscomb, Whistler, B.C., 12th (65.25); Brad Martin, Ancaster, Ont., 19th, (31.25).

Men's Halfpipe Final Ranking: Derek Livingston, Aurora, Ont., 19th; Crispin Lipscomb, Whistler, B.C., 23rd; Brad Martin, Ancaster, Ont., 39th.

SPEED SKATING

Ladies' 500 m Race 1 of 2 - Christine Nesbitt, London, Ont., 11th (38.53 seconds, +1.11 seconds); Anastasia Bucsis, Calgary, 27th (39.272); Marsha Hudey, White City, Sask., 32nd (39.59); Danielle Wotherspoon-Gregg, Red Deer, Alta., 33rd (39.76).

Ladies' 500 m Race 2 of 2 - Christine Nesbitt, London, Ont., 12th, (38.61 seconds, +1.33 seconds); Anastasia Bucsis, Calgary, (39.25); Danielle Wotherspoon-Gregg, Red Deer, Alta., (39.56); Marsha Hudey, White City, Sask., (39.63).

Ladies' 500 m Final Rankings: Christine Nesbitt, London, Ont., 12th, (77.15 seconds, +2.45 seconds); Anastasia Bucsis, Calgary, 28th, (78.52); Marsha Hudey, White City, Sask., 32nd, (79.22); Danielle Wotherspoon-Gregg, Red Deer, Alta., 33rd, (79.32).

CURLING

MEN

All Times Eastern

Tuesday's results

Sweden 7 **Canada 6**
China 9 United States 4
Britain 7 Germany 6
Norway 9 Russia 8

Wednesday's games

Denmark vs. United States, 12 a.m.
Norway vs. Germany, 12 a.m.
China vs. Switzerland, 12 a.m.
Germany vs. China, 10 a.m.
Switzerland vs. Britain, 10 a.m.
Russia vs. **Canada**, 10 a.m.
Denmark vs. Sweden, 10 a.m.

WOMEN

All Times Eastern

Tuesday's results

Switzerland 7 Denmark 6
Canada 9 Sweden 3
Russia 9 United States 6
South Korea 12 Japan 7
Britain 12 United States 3
Switzerland 8 South Korea 6
Japan 8 Denmark 3
China 7 Russia 5

Wednesday's games

Japan vs. Russia, 5 a.m.
United States vs. China, 5 a.m.
South Korea vs. Sweden, 5 a.m.
Canada vs. Britain, 5 a.m.

HOCKEY

PRELIMINARY ROUND

All times Eastern

MEN

Wednesday's games

Czech Republic at Sweden, 12 p.m.
Latvia at Switzerland, 12 p.m.

WOMEN

Tuesday's results

Sweden 4 Germany 0
Russia 2 Japan 1

Wednesday's games

Switzerland at Finland, 3 a.m.
Canada at United States, 7:30 a.m.

Norwegians continue cross-country domination

Ola Vigen Hattestad of Norway, left, and Calle Halfvarsson of Sweden compete in the men's sprint free finals during day four of the Winter Olympics on Tuesday in Sochi. Norway won double gold in the cross-country freestyle sprints, including Hattestad's, while picking up silver medals in the women's sprint and women's 10-kilometre biathlon pursuit. RICHARD HEATHCOTE/GETTY IMAGES

'I-Pod' gives Shaun White his exit music

Halfpipe. American snowboarder finishes 4th after failing to land Swiss star's trick

Shaun White lost to a kid they call the "I-Pod," and now he may never hear the end of it.

How big of an Olympic shocker was this? White, the best snowboarder of his era and one of the best-known and best-marketed athletes at the Sochi Games, didn't even win a medal. He finished fourth.

The 27-year-old American, who opted out of the Olympic slopestyle debut and put all his chips in the halfpipe, where he hoped to win a third straight gold medal, got knocked off by Iouri Podladtchikov, the Russian-born inventor of the "Yolo," the trick that White could not master.

"I'm disappointed," White said. "I hate the fact I nailed it in practice, but it happens. It's hard to be consistent."

The Japanese pair of 15-year-old Ayumu Hirano and 18-year-old Taku Hiraoka won silver and bronze, and the Americans were shut out on the halfpipe for the first time since the sport was introduced to the Olympics in 1998.

Podladtchikov, who now lives in and competes for Switzerland, landed the trick successfully at an event in Europe last season, but hadn't done it since.

"I'm about to faint ..." said Podladtchikov, who gets his gold Wednesday.

White watched a replay of I-Pod's trick last March and went to work trying to match it.

He landed it twice in qualifying events and was listed as the heavy favourite to become the seventh person to win three straight gold medals in an individual event at the Winter Games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Disappointing finish

"The tricks I learned getting ready for the competition will carry on for a couple years.... It's a bummer. I had one of those nights."

American snowboarder Shaun White on his fourth place finish

Christine Nesbitt of London competes on Tuesday in Sochi. MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lee Sang-hwa defends her gold

Lee Sang-hwa burst off the line with a flawless start. She built up speed with each stride on the front straightway — her arms swinging powerfully, her body low to the ice.

By the time Lee came around the final turn, the gold medal was a formality.

"Right now," said silver medallist Olga Fatkulina, "she is almost Usain Bolt."

The South Korean lived up to the hype as the overwhelming favourite in women's 500-metre speedskating Tuesday, zipping around the big oval with the two fastest runs to win her second straight Olympic gold.

The 24-year-old dominated the World Cup circuit this season, winning every event she entered.

Christine Nesbitt of London was the top Canadian in 12th. She finished with a combined time of 1:17.15.

Calgary's Anastasia Bucsis followed in 28th at 1:18.52, Marsha Hudey of White City, Sask., was 32nd in 1:19.22 and Danielle Wotherspoon-Gregg of Red Deer, Alta., was just behind in 33rd at 1:19.32.

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Michael Sam. CFL players fined for comments about gay U.S. football player

The Canadian Football League fined two players undisclosed amounts Tuesday for making comments about openly gay football player Michael Sam.

Montreal Alouettes wide receiver Arland Bruce was fined for a crude posting on social media urging Sam to "submit to God."

Winnipeg Blue Bombers defensive tackle Bryant Turner Jr. was disciplined for a reported anti-homosexual tweet that has since been deleted.

"The comments made by these players are extremely disappointing and do not represent the CFL's views or the views of the vast majority of our players," CFL commissioner Mark Cohon said in a statement.

"The CFL is supportive of openly gay athletes in professional sports and we commend the courage shown by Michael Sam. During the off-season, we have been working with an organization that specializes in this subject."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The CFL fined Arland Bruce Tuesday for making inappropriate comments about openly gay football player Michael Sam. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Did you know?

4%

A Pew Research survey last year of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender adults in the U.S. found that just four per cent saw pro sports leagues as friendly toward LGBT people, while 59 per cent saw the leagues as unfriendly and 36 per cent as neutral.

Gay baseball player?

Girardi: MLB ready

Yankees manager Joe Girardi says the MLB would accept an openly gay player. "I think our world has adjusted to that," he said Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

Riders re-sign record-tying kicker

Kicker Chris Milo has re-signed with the Saskatchewan Roughriders, in a deal announced mere moments after the Montreal native hit the free agent market.

The three-year CFL veteran played a crucial role in the last year's championship drive, connecting on 46 of 52 field goal attempts for an 88.5 per cent success rate in the 2013 season.

He began the season by hitting 28 consecutive field goal attempts, tying a team record. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Qatar 2022. World Cup body publishes charter for protection of workers

Qatar sought to allay widespread concerns about conditions for migrant workers on World Cup building projects by detailing on Tuesday how their rights must be protected by contractors.

Rights group Amnesty International called the charter a "positive, if partial" step, but the International Trade Union Confederation called it a "sham," and complained that 2022 World Cup leaders have not demanded changes in Qatar's labour laws despite mounting criticism from rights groups.

FIFA, which ordered the report, said the charter showed "concrete steps" were being taken to accelerate the introduction of "adequate uniform" conditions for workers building venues for the Middle East's first World Cup.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quelling concerns

The document includes basic welfare obligations published last year, including requirements for employment contracts, payment, medical care and living conditions.

Did you hear the one about Jay Leno and his cars?

Not on The Tonight Show, you didn't. Famous car collector saved most of his vehicle funnies for when he was off camera

AUTO PILOT
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Jay Leno left The Tonight Show last week, after a 22-year run. Over that time he cranked out thousands of jokes. He made more than 4,000 at the expense of President Bill Clinton alone.

His next favourite targets were President George W. Bush (3,239), Vice-President Al Gore (1,026), and President Barack Obama (1,011).

O.J. Simpson clocked in at number six. In fact, Leno quipped his last and 795th joke about O.J. during his outgoing monologue.

"So much has happened (over the last 22 years). You know the saddest part? O.J. never found the real killers."

Categorizing the subject matter of Leno's jokes this way made me realize he didn't really joke too much about his favourite and all-consuming passion — cars and motorcycles. He is probably the world's more recognizable car collector.

Big-time collectors tend to be a bit camera shy, but not Mr. Leno. He shares his collection with the world via Jay Leno's Garage, an internet-based series, and through all sorts of very public appearances at cars shows and other events.

Funny, but even though it's harder to come by, I like Leno's car-based humour much better than his regular fair. I guess I'm one of those who think his TV jokes are a bit too broad-based and mercenary. The New York Times claimed Leno's mantra was always, "Write joke, tell joke, get check."

His riffing on car matters, however, seems less like forced jocularity and more like a fun conversation you would have with a buddy riding shotgun on a road trip.

Here are some of my favourite Jay Leno-isms about cars and motorcycles, picked up over the years from monologues, interviews, profiles and things he's written himself in car and bike magazines. (Disclaimer: I'll be paraphrasing here and there, since I do not remember in verbatim.)

On how many cars and motorcycles are in his collection: "My wife thinks it's around 17 or so. Let's go with that." (In reality it's over 200 and counting.)

On cupholders: "Rolls-Royce has finally introduced a cupholder. He sits in the back and his name is Charles."

On coming to a stoplight in his MTT Y2K Turbine Superbike: "I look in the mirror and see the heat from the turbine is actually melting the plastic front bumper of the Toyota Corolla right behind me. When the light turns green I am going to be so outta here."

On buying cars to get impress people: "I'm not the type of person who buys a car to impress people — most women are not really impressed by a guy in a 1909 White Steam Car."

On getting pulled over by the police for speeding in a 1909 White Steam Car: "The cop was more intrigued that it was made of wood, and carrying an open flame, than the idea that I was going 76 m.p.h. But when you go by a cop in a wooden car that's on fire, going 76, they tend to go, 'Hey, hey. What's that?'"

On bad cars: "I'm like Father Flanagan in Boys Town. There are no bad cars. There are just cars that need to be loved and taken care of.

Jay Leno rarely told automotive-themed jokes on The Tonight Show for such a famous car enthusiast and collector, but I really enjoyed the ones he did crack away from the TV spotlight. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

*Limited time 2.9% semi-monthly lease offered through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit to qualified retail customers on all new 2014 Corolla models. First semi-monthly payment due at lease inception and next semi-monthly payment due approximately 15 days later and semi-monthly thereafter throughout the term. Toyota Financial Services will waive the final semi-monthly payment. Semi-monthly lease offers not open to employees of Toyota Canada, Toyota Financial Services or TMMC/TMMC Vehicle Purchase Plan. Some conditions apply. See your Toyota dealer for complete details. Example (applies across Canada except Quebec): 2014 Corolla CE 6M with a vehicle price of $16,415 (includes $1,100 Toyota Canada Lease Assist, which is deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes, and $1,520 freight/PDI) leased at 2.9% over 60 months with $0 down payment equals 120 semi-monthly payments of $89 with a cost of borrowing of $1,735.85 and a total obligation of $12,369.05. $0 security deposit and first semi-monthly payment due at lease inception. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, registration, fees and taxes. 100,000 km allowance for 60 months, with ability to purchase additional kilometres at $0.05/km at time of lease inception, and a charge of $0.07/km for excess kilometres. Dealer may lease for less. †Toyota semi-monthly lease program available on 48 month and 60 month terms. Toyota semi-monthly lease program based on 24 payments per year, on a 60-month lease, equals 120 payments, with the final 120th payment waived by Toyota Financial Services. Competitive bi-weekly lease programs based on 26 payments per year, on a 60-month lease, equals 130 payments.

The unusual world of car sales foresight

Driving force.
Forecasters look at jobs, prices and the world to estimate car sales

JIL MCINTOSH
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Last year, Canadians bought a record 1.74 million vehicles, an increase of four per cent over what they purchased in 2012. And with 2014 well under way, analysts are already looking at how many cars and trucks will end up in new homes this year.

"We expect purchases to climb to a record 1.76 million units in 2014," says Carlos Gomes, senior economist and auto industry specialist for Scotiabank. "New-vehicle affordability in Canada is at the best level in two decades."

These forecasts are an important tool for many companies involved in the auto industry, including the car manufacturers themselves, their dealers, lending facilities and service suppliers.

The forecasts also give insight into what will happen in the coming years, as dealers and auto auctions estimate how many used vehicles will eventually end up in the market, or tire dealers determine how many replacement or winter tires they should stock.

Forecasters look at such things as the strength of the global economy and the Canadian dollar, employment figures and car prices. It's a complicated puzzle, with factors that can connect in unusual ways. For example, the U.S. recession brought a sharp drop in new houses being built, which in turn dried up the export market for Canadian lumber. Those industries, and others like them, bought fewer new trucks. Not only did that affect the auto market at the time, but a few years later, the resulting supply-and-demand of these smaller numbers sent the price of used trucks soaring.

To come up with his forecasts for 2014, Gomes considered such things as an upcoming shipbuilding contract in Nova Scotia and increased natural gas drilling in British Columbia, which will ultimately increase jobs and raise car sales, along with downward trends such as a delayed aerospace project in Quebec.

He also looks at vehicle pricing. "Affordability has improved so dramatically," he says. "We look at the average vehicle price and compare it with the level of the typical household income, and divide prices by income. We do it as the number of weeks that a household has to work to buy a new vehicle. That number has been coming down significantly."

Currently, a household must work 23.5 weeks to earn enough to buy a car, Gomes says. The average since 1990 has been 27 weeks, although there was a spike in 1999, when vehicles were least affordable and it took 32 weeks of work to purchase one.

"The automakers have done a good job of limiting price increases," Gomes says. "Since the downturn of 2000/2001, annual price gains have been only about 1 per cent per year, while we're seeing household incomes increasing by roughly triple that. Stable car prices and rising incomes have led to the improvement of affordability."

To note

- **Truck-mad Alberta.** Albertans buy 30 per cent of all the pickup trucks sold in Canada. Within the province, 75 per cent of all vehicle sales are trucks, SUVs, or vans.
- **Ontario stats.** There were 646,000 vehicles sold in Ontario in 2013, the second-highest number on record. Most went to households, but fleet sales are forecast to climb in 2014.
- **Potential knock-on effect.** Since many vehicles sold in the U.S. are made in Canada, a stronger U.S. economy will drive increased production at Canadian plants.

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The Offer applies to the first four bi-weekly payments for customers paying on a bi-weekly basis and the sum of 12 monthly payments divided by 26 and multiplied by 4 for customers paying on a monthly basis ("First 4 Bi-Weekly Payments"). Maximum amounts are $500 on 2013/2014 [Focus S and Fiesta S], $750 on 2013/2014 [Focus (excluding S), Fiesta (excluding S)] and 2014 [C-MAX], $1,000 on 2013/2014 [Fusion], 2014 [Mustang (excluding Shelby GT500), Escape], $1,250 on 2013/2014 [Taurus, Edge], 2014 [F-150 Regular Cab, Super Cab, and Super Crew], $1,500 on 2013/2014 [Flex], 2014 [Explorer], $1,750 on 2014 [Expedition], All Mustang Shelby GT500, Transit Connect E-Series, F-150 Raptor, Super Duty, Medium Truck, Chassis, Stripped Cab and cutaway models excluded. Offer only available on approved credit (O.A.C.) from Ford Credit. If the equivalent of the First 4 Bi-Weekly Payments exceeds the maximum amount, the customer will be responsible for the balance. First 4 Bi-Weekly (or monthly payment equivalent, as applicable) payments are required from customer Finance customers will receive a cheque for the amount of their first 4 Bi-Weekly Payments from the dealer. For RCL customers, the first month's payment will be waived and they will receive a cheque for the amount of two bi-weekly payments according to the formula described above - customer will then be responsible for making all of his/her remaining scheduled payments in accordance with their contract. Offer not available to cash purchase customers. Not combinable with CFAP, CPA, GPC, Commercial Upfit Incentive Program or Daily Rental Allowances incentives. † Until January 31, 2014, receive $500/ $1,000/ $1,500/ $2,000 / $2,250/ $2,500/ $3,000/ $3,250/ $4,000/ $4,500/ $5,000/ $5,750/ $6,500/ $6,750/ $8,500/ $9,000/ $10,000/ $10,500 in Manufacturer Rebates with the purchase or lease of a new 2014 [Escape (excluding 2.0L)/ 2013 [Focus (excluding BEV), Fiesta], 2014 [Focus BEV, Escape 2.0L, E-Series,]/ 2013 [Escape S, E-Series,], 2014 [Mustang V6 Coupe, Taurus (excluding SE)] / 2013 [Edge AWD (excluding SE), F-150 Regular Cab XL 4x2/ Value Leader, F-150 to F-550 Chassis Cabs,] 2014 [Edge, Transit Connect (excluding Electric), F-150 Regular Cab XL 4x2/ Value Leader, F-150 to F-550 Chassis Cabs,]/ 2013 [Taurus SE]/ 2013 [Mustang V6 Coupe]/ 2013 [Edge AWD (excluding SE), Explorer Base], 2014 [Mustang V6 Premium]/ 2013 [C-MAX]/ 2013 [Taurus (excluding SE), Escape I-4, Transit Connect (excluding Electric)], 2014 [Mustang GT]/ 2013 [Mustang V6 Premium, Escape 2.0L, Explorer (excluding Base)] / 2013 [Mustang GT]/ 2014 [F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2)] / 2013 [Expedition], 2014 [F-150 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cabs) - Gas Engine]/ 2014 [F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew]/ 2013 [F-150 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cabs) - Gas Engine], 2014 [F-150 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cabs) - Diesel Engine]/ 2013 [F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2)]/ 2013 [Focus BEV, F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew]/ 2013 [F-150 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cabs) -Diesel Engine] - all Raptor, GT500, 8001302, and Medium Truck models] excluded. * Until February 28, 2014 purchase a new 2013 Ford [F-150 Super Cab XLT 4x4 5.0L/ F-150 Super Crew XLT 4x4 5.0L] for [$25,999/$28,499] [after total Manufacturer Rebate of [$10,000] deducted]. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after total manufacturer rebate has been deducted. Offers exclude freight and air tax ($1,750) license, fuel fill charge, insurance, dealer PDI, registration, PPSA, administration fees, any environmental charges or fees, and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. ^^ Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2013 [F-150 4X4 5.0L V8 6-Speed Auto]. Fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada-approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. **Offer only valid from February 1, 2014 to February 28, 2014 (the "Offer Period") to resident Canadians with an eligible Costco membership on or before January 31, 2014 who purchase or lease of a new 2013/2014 Ford (excluding Fiesta, Focus, C-Max, Raptor, GT500, Mustang Boss 302, and Medium Truck) vehicle (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Limit one (1) offer per each Eligible Vehicle purchase or lease, up to a maximum of two (2) separate Eligible Vehicle sales per Costco Membership Number. Offer is transferable to persons domiciled with an eligible Costco member. Applicable taxes calculated before CAD$1,000 offer is deducted. ® Registered trademark of Price Costco International, Inc. used under license †† Based on R. L. Polk Canada, Inc. Total New Registration data for Full Size Pickups per Ford Segmentation as of YTD September 30, 2013. + Based on year-end 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 total sales figures for light vehicles in Canada from OesBesses Automotive Consultants Inc. (and Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association data exchanged by OEMs). ©2014 Sirius Canada Inc. "SiriusXM", the SiriusXM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc. and are used under license. ® Registered trademark of Price Costco International, Inc. used under license. ©2014 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. 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Shipbuilding and mineral mining can factor in when estimating car sales.

It all comes down to how much disposable income people have. BOTH IMAGES PROVIDED

Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
Everyone expects you to be happy-go-lucky and most of the time you are, but something has been worrying you beyond belief in recent weeks. It's time to get over it.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You don't find it easy to let others make decisions for you but today you are advised to put yourself in other people's hands and let them call the shots. The planets indicate you won't lose a thing.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It's time to get serious about your ambitions. The winds of fate can blow you only so far. Once you reach a certain point, you have to get ahead on your own. Go for it!

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
What others don't want you to know is exactly what you need to know right now, so start asking questions and don't stop until you have found answers that make sense.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You must deal with a money worry you have been doing your best to ignore. Now that Mercury is about to move back into your opposite sign, you will have to be totally honest with yourself.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You may not see eye-to-eye with a certain individual but you can reach a compromise that satisfies you both. It's quite possible to be allies in some areas and rivals in others, even though you may never be friends.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
According to the planets you must choose a route and stick with it today. If you don't, it may be several more weeks before you get the chance to regain control of your affairs.

Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
All things are possible for those born under the sign of the Scorpion but you still need to be clear about what it is you want and committed to getting it. Reaffirm your desires today.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Put petty arguments behind you and move forward together again. Cosmic activity in the domestic sector of your chart makes it easy to kiss and make up today. Tomorrow it may be too late.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something you see or hear on your travels could be just what you've been waiting for. Even if it isn't, it will still be a lot of fun and fun is something that has been lacking of late.

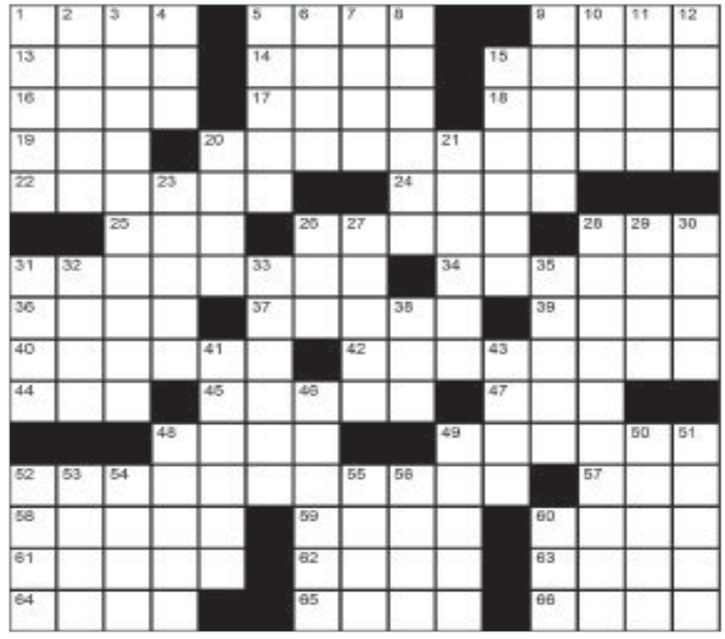
Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You must be positive and professional today, because the face you show the world over the next 24 hours is the one they will remember for the next few weeks. Show important people how determined you are.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Start making moves that will get you noticed. Even if you prefer to stay in the background, you will have to give part of yourself over to the public domain. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

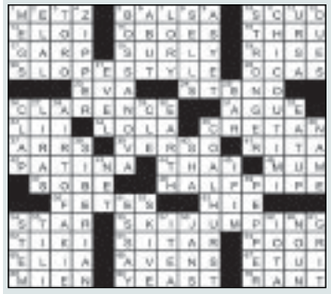
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Tire going flat sound
5. Rhyming scheme
9. SOCHI 2014 - Sport-on-a-sled
13. Street
14. Hope __ Hospital, on CTV's "Saving Hope"
15. More lenient
16. Liturgical vestments
17. Jog
18. Once Time link: 2 wds.
19. Golfer Michelle
20. SOCHI 2014 - Pairs Figure Skating move: 2 wds.
22. SOCHI 2014 - __ Combined
24. Mr. Musk
25. Pistol
26. __. Assistant
28. Kit __
31. Toronto office building, Bay __ Centre; or, city in Australia
34. Rene's songstress wife
36. So longs
37. Jack of "Twin Peaks"
39. Gr.
40. Singer John
42. Guessed
44. Energy unit
45. An archangel
47. __ _ lark
48. James or Scott
49. Unlocked
52. SOCHI 2014 - Athletes pack their bags upon positive results from them: 2 wds.
57. Actress Sandra
58. Croissant shape [abbr.]
59. Cole Porter's "Well, Did You __?"
60. Land unit
61. Vivian of "I Love Lucy"
62. Sportswear brand
63. Proper's pal
64. Go __ detail
65. Highway-crossing animal
66. Caustics

Down
1. Spot __ (British Columbia shrimp)
2.First __ (Shakespeare's 1623 plays collection)
3. Jewel-encrusted Russian treasure: 2 wds.
4. Canadian banks, e.g.
5. Empire of Mexico
6. Broadcast, __ _ show
7. Charge
8. SOCHI 2014 - National __ (Gold-getter's tune)
9. Rabbit: French
10. Wife: Latin
11. Actress, __ Lee Nolin
12. 'Fed' suffix (Government-related)
15. Broadway star Patti
20. Ms. Lohan, Show-biz parent
21. One cutting the tomato
23. Edible seaweed
26. US teeth docs org.
27. Crowded
28. SOCHI 2014 - Area where figure skaters wait for their scores: 3 wds.
29. L'__ aux Meadows
30. Mind
31. Fit
32. Cloth hue's changer
33. "Tootsie" (1982) ...how Dustin Hoffman appeared: 2 wds.
35. Pure __ (Wool garment tag)
38. __-de-sac
41. Subtlety
43. Cleans the floors
46. Mean
48. The __ Kid (Westerns character)
49. Significant __ (Special someone)
50. Supernaturally strange
51. Regards
52. Nero's 606
53. Port city of Algeria
54. Cooped up
55. Songstress Ms. Sands
56. Purpose
60. Fergie's bandmate, __.de.ap

Yesterday's Crossword

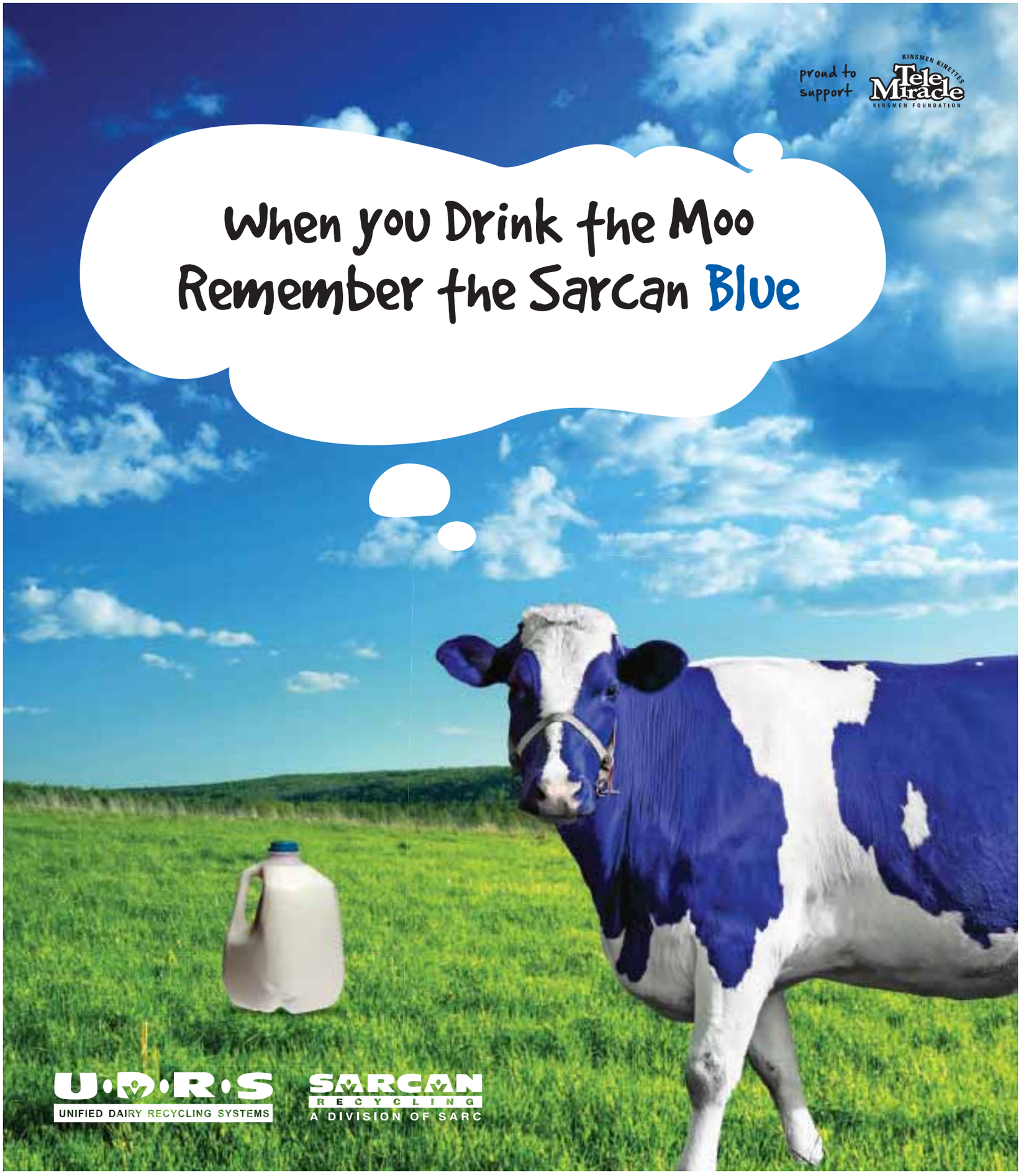


Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	6	9	2	4	1	8	5	3
3	2	1	9	5	8	6	7	4
4	5	8	7	6	3	2	9	1
6	8	2	5	3	9	1	4	7
1	4	3	8	2	7	9	6	5
9	7	5	4	1	6	3	8	2
2	1	7	6	9	4	5	3	8
5	9	4	3	8	2	7	1	6
8	3	6	1	7	5	4	2	9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